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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman and Ranking Member,

I am requesting \$1,967,328 in funding for the Old Northside High School Campus Modernization and Adaptive Reuse Plan in fiscal year 2023 through the Health Resources and Service Administration, Health Facilities Construction and Equipment account.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Havana Community Development Corp. Inc. located at 264 Carver Avenue Havana, Florida 32333.

The funding would be used to modernize an approximately 10,000 sq. ft of space in its 50,000 sq. ft. facility to establish a branch health clinic through Gadsden County's Health Department as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) look-alike for rural Northeast Gadsden County, Florida. Specifically, the funds would be used to design develop, and integrate a secure, web-based telehealth network technology platform; make substantial capital improvements to the overall facility with a specific focus on a new medical-grade ventilation HVAC system, upgrade electrical, lighting, and plumbing; and to transform the existing Agriculture Building, currently equipped with a large oversized "elephant door," into a 2-bay EMS station and law enforcement dispatch center.

This is a good expenditure of taxpayer funds because of the overwhelming and documented healthcare disparities in Florida's only predominantly black county, as compared to the state's population overall. Low income, high poverty, and limited economic opportunities continue to be leading predictors of health outcomes and health access in Gadsden County, both on an individual and county-wide basis. If this rural healthcare initiative is funded, residents of Gadsden County will have unfettered access to healthcare truly targeted for this often forgotten, unquestionably vulnerable population.

Sincerely,



Al Lawson
Member of Congress